

STAFFORD RIVERWAY LINK

NEWSLETTER number 4, January 2008

For the moment, the presidential person remains on the re-thinking list.

At the I.W.A. National Rally in August on the Fens I called upon all the Companies producing Waterways Maps and discussed with them the possibility of making a note on their maps (those that already do not show the Stafford Branch – Sow Navigation) to show the Stafford Branch – Sow Navigation (see Geo projects Inland Waterways of Britain 2003 2nd edition for example) and they all agreed to include this in future editions as I handed them all the latest leaflet.

On the subject of leaflets, we must thank Ivor Hind who recently joined the Committee to take on sponsorship and immediately obtained sponsorship from g & a Footprint for the latest leaflets – they look very professional indeed. Well done Ivor.

I managed another flight in a microlight on the 4th September (courtesy of Gordon the Chief Flying Instructor of The Stafford Microlight Centre, who by the way has retired now) and obtained much better photo's on a nice bright sunny day (in fact it was too bright) than those taken in May.

When time permits, I will include these photo's in an updated presentation that can be used either fully automatic or manually, depending upon which edition suits the occasion.

As of today's date, I feel I have been badly let down as also at the I.W.A. National Rally I contacted another Marina development company after B.W. Marina's advised that they would not be proceeding with a Marina at Baswich owing to flood plain and road access problems and on Tuesday 13th November, Bob & I met Pete Barlow a Director of JGH Marina's who stated that owing to land levels, overhead electrical cables, road access and the site needing puddling the site was probably not viable for his company, but he would contact us at a later date – I have since sent 3 e-mails to the Company, but still await a reply.

He did state that commercially they needed to build 200 boat marina's as anything less is not viable, however of interest, he did state that a 100 boat marina taking into consideration all the negative points mentioned would probably cost in the region of 1.3million pounds and a 100 boat marina to me would be ideal, on top of about 1million for the Lock and again the same to improve the navigation into Stafford (total 3.3million pounds). This does not seem a lot of money when in October last year the Banks were losing that in less than a day

I also mentioned in the last Newsletter (number 3) that an exciting promotion was in the embryo stage after "they contacted us" but after sending a comprehensive CD with history, photo's and a copy of the 'Towpath Talk' article I have had no replies to 3 e-mails. One might say that I have an e-mail problem but that cannot be as other correspondents return my e-mails. I decided to wait until the New Year before making contact again

as I am of the opinion that January can be a dull time for News, but still no reply.

The proposed Marina at Baswich is currently still the focal point in our main aim of restoring the Link with the county town of Stafford

Recently on the BBC Local News they invited the public to Challenge Carl Chinn in order to produce local history fact finding programs – I have sent them an e-mail, but with my track record as mentioned above I will be lucky to get a reply!

The Membership continues to grow both with Corporate and Individual members, some with donations on top of the fees being received and for those we thank you very much.

This regeneration of the Link into Stafford will probably take a long time to fulfil especially in the current economic climate but with all the members help in continuing to support this worthwhile cause one day we will succeed and in the grand scale of canal re-openings the Stafford Riverway Link is a very important Link for an extremely small financial outlay – we will succeed.

As a Member, if you have any suggestions or ideas that you consider to be of value to the SRL please do not hesitate to put them forward to the Committee.

At our next Committee meeting in February we will discuss the way forward, involvement at the I.W.A. National Festival this year at Pendeford and I.W.A membership along with other matters – we will keep you informed.

These Newsletters hopefully will appear in the Spring and the Autumn (or when necessary) to inform Members of progress in our aims and objectives

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